

exported to foreign countries and against that some crude which is suitable for our refineries is being imported. So if this is a fact, will the hon. Minister let us know whether the refineries here are going to be suitably modified so that the crude oil which is procured from our own oil wells can be refined here itself?

SHRIS. KRISHANKUMAR: Sir, roughly 30 million tonnes of crude on the average which is being produced in the country as of now per year is fully utilised in our refineries. Only the balance required is imported. Of course certain types of crudes are required for certain types of refineries depending on the product mix and the technology. So this is taken into account in the import as well as in the technical planning of the future refineries.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Till the technology is available to harness the natural gas into our domestic and industrial consumption, how much of natural gas will be wasted in terms of dollars?

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The production of natural gas in the country is 48 million cubic metres per day. It is proposed to be raised to 80 million to 90 million cubic metres per day at the end of the 8th Plan. Presently about 11 million cubic metres of gas is being flared. About 10 million is being flared due to lack of infrastructure. As I said earlier, through a series of development programmes including a very massive gas flaring reduction project, we hope to reduce flaring to zero by the end of 1994-95 financial year.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: What is the outflow of dollars?

[Translation]

Freedom Fighters' Pension

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*616. **SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY:**

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for grant of freedom fighters' pension pending with the Union Government at present, State-wise;

(b) the reasons for their pendency; and

(c) the steps taken to dispose of these applications expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM LAL RAH): (a), (b) and (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

The last date prescribed for receipt of applications under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension—1980 was 31.3.1982. All the applications received by the prescribed date had been considered once and disposed off. However, new applications continue to be received even after the prescribed date. These are 'delayed' applications and are liable for summary rejection unless they are accompanied by documentary evidence from official records in support of their claimed sufferings. There are 9,387 delayed applications pending as on 8.4.1992. An Annexure showing the State-wise position is enclosed.

Incomplete information, non-production of documentary evidence from official records in respect of the sufferings undergone and non-receipt of the recommendations of the State Governments are the main reasons for their pendency.

Special drives are launched from time to time to dispose off the applications.

Annexure

State-wise break up of Pending Applications as on 1st April, 1992

S No.	Name of State/UT	Pending
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5426
2.	Assam	51
3.	Bihar	796
4.	Gujarat	105
5.	Goa	14
6.	Haryana	52
7.	Himachal Pradesh	43
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	—
9.	Karnataka	1639
10.	Kerala	65
11.	Madhya Pradesh	77
12.	Maharashtra	764
13.	Manipur	—
14.	Meghalaya	—
15.	Mizoram	—
16.	Nagaland	—
17.	Orissa	52
18.	Punjab	36
19.	Rajasthan	30
20.	Tamil Nadu	99
21.	Tripura	11
22.	Uttar Pradesh	57
23.	West Bengal	23

S No.	Name of State/UT	Pending
24.	Chandigarh	9
25.	Delhi	27
26.	Pondicherry	11
27.	I.N.A.	—
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	—
29.	Andaman Nicobar Islands	—
Total		9387

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, replying to the question the hon. Minister has said that the last date proscribed for receipt of application under the Swatantra Sainik Samman Pension 1980 was 31.3.82 and all the applications received by the prescribed date had been considered once and disposed off. However, new application continued to be received even after that and 9,387 applications were pending till 1992. Many irregularities have also been found in sanctioning of pension to pensioners. The people whose applications lying pending are being harassed. I would like to know as to what steps are being taken by the Government in order that all the pending applications either with State Government or with Central Government are sorted out in all sincerity under a time bond programme?

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: The pending applications are dealt with expeditiously, but in absence of documentary evidence reports from the State Governments are sought and it takes time to receive the report from the State Governments. We are not make any delays. I would like to tell the hon. Member that special drives have been launched several times to clear the pending applications expeditiously. The pending applications are not very large in number. They are approximately 9000 only. Therefore, there is

no need of launching any special drive. We are getting them examined very expeditiously and these will be disposed of early after the receipt of documentary evidence.

SHRI RAMTAHAL CHOUDHARY: The hon. Minister must mention some time limit. Secondly, is there any provision of providing pension to the widows of those pensioners who die and if so how many widows have been sanctioned pension so far? How many applications of such widows are pending with the Government? Is Government considering the question of sanctioning pension to them or not?

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the wives of the all those freedom-fighters who have died are granted pensions and application from all of them are being accepted. 699 applications are lying pending with the Government at present. Government has asked for the report in such cases. As soon as report is received, we take a decision in that regard.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): In fact, one of the reasons for delay is that all the applications from the widows come to Delhi. That is why, we are thinking of delegating the powers to

the Collectors rather than they come all the way to Delhi and getting the sanction.

SHRITHAYILJOHNANJALOSE: There were many struggles in Kerala which were part of the freedom movement. One among them is the Punnappa-Vayalar struggle in Kerala in which hundreds let down their lives fighting the oppressive regime. The State Government also has, many a time, requested to give freedom fighters pension to those who have participated in the Punnappa-Vayalar struggle. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether the Government would consider this and provide pension for those who have participated in that struggle?

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: So far as this category is concerned, it has still not been accepted as the freedom movement and that is why, it will be difficult to sanction any pension.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the delays are due to the problems at state level. Would the Minister kindly inform about the number of applications which had been received by the Central Government duly recommended by the Bihar Government and how many of them are still pending? The widows of the freedom fighters should be immediately sanctioned the pension. Earlier, they used to get the pension in their respective states after filing the affidavit. Now the procedure has been changed and they have to rush to Delhi. They have to spend thousands of rupees. I have written to the hon. Minister yesterday also and requested that widows should not be asked to come to Delhi and when affidavit is filed by them, they should be sanctioned pension at the State level. After all, what is the objection in sanctioning the pension to them at the State level?

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: There is neither any provision nor any directive to call the widows to Delhi from any State, not to speak of Bihar State. When their applications are

received with proper evidence, pension is at once sanctioned to them. In cases of applications where necessary evidence is found missing a report is asked for..... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: They should get their pension in Collector's office as per earlier rule.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not try to raise a debate. Kindly allow him to reply to the question.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has just now said in his reply that work is being decentralised.

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: I would like to inform the hon. Member that 796 cases from Bihar are under consideration at present. These include cases of widows also.

[English]

Atrocities against Women

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*617. **SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:**
DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether atrocities against women are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have issued any directives to the State Governments to check such atrocities;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response thereto; and

(d) other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check these atrocities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS